WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

IFFCO Investment and Expansion Programme

*45. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether IFFCO is investing substantial amount in Andhra Pradesh and foreign countries such as Iran, Senegal as a part of its expansion programme;

(b) whether IFFCO is going to spend on the revival of existing plants spread over the country to minimise import of fertilizers for the internal consumption; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Under the prescribed procedure for investment approval, preliminary clearance has been accorded to IFFCO for setting up a fertilizer project consisting of 1350 Tonne per Day (TPD) ammonia and 2200 TPD urea plants at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 1568 crore. The project has a Debt: Equity ratio of 2:1.

IFFCO has studied the pre-feasibility of a urea production facility at Qeshm Island, Iran, in joint venture with Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) and Qeshm Free Area Authority.

With a view to securing the supply of imported phosphoric acid required for the expansion of its Kandla unit, IFFCO has decided in principle to invest in the proposed expansion project of Industries Chimiques du Senegal, an existing joint venture company in which IFFCO is a partner alongwith Government of India and Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited.

(b) and (c) The possibility of participation of IFFCO in the revival of existing fertilizer plants was explored by the Government, but because of the commitments of IFFCO towards its on going expansion projects and joint ventures for augmenting fetilizer production capacity, no such proposal could materialise.

[Translation]

Supply of Inferior Quality of Foodgrains

*46. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether inferior quality of foodgrains are being supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through the Public Distribution network in several States;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received from various States and number of cases detected in this regard;

(d) the action taken by the Government in each case; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIERS, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No Sir, only good quality foodgrains of A&B category, free from insect infestation and Conforming to PFA standards are being supplied by FCI through the Public Distribution network in all the States.

(b) In view of (a) above Questions does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ten complaints were received from various States by the Government about the supply of inferior quality of foodgrains to PDS during 1995-96 and 1996-97. The complaints were properly referred to Food Corporation of India for Investigation and to take immediate remedial measures. Details of complaints received in the Ministry during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as follows:-

Date of Receipt	Subject	Latest Position
1	2	3
11.5.95	Quality of rice being supplied to PDS in Karnataka State – a press note published in the "Indian Express" dated 11.5.95	Remedial action taken by FCI and rice stocks after cleaning were issued to state Government.
22.5.95	Poor quality of wheat supplied under PDS in the Orissa State.	The complaint was investigated by the officer of QCC, Calcutta and was not substantiated
17.8.95	Issue of poor quality of rice through PDS in Delhi.	FCI took remedial measures to supply goods quality foodgrains for PDS in Delhi.
21.9.95	Quality of foodgrains issued from Food Corporation of India to Gujarat.	FCI has taken action to ensure goods quality foodgrains for PDS in Gujarat State.

1	2	3
21.11.95	Complaint about quality of rice supplied to Sikkim for PDS by Food Corporation of India	Action has been taken by FCI to ensure the supply of Fair Average Quality of rice to State Govt.
27.11.95	Complaint from Minister of Food, Tourism & Law, Govt. of Kerala regarding supply of bad quality of rice from FCI to State Government.	Remedial action has been taken by FCI.
12.9.96	Complaint about poor quality of foodgrains in PDS in Almora district U.P.	The Complaint was investigated by an officer of Ministry of Food and it was found false. The quality of foodgrains available in PDS was found conforming to prescribed standards.
26.9.96	Quality of wheat supplied to Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.	Complaint under investigation with Food Corporation of India.
27.9.96	Complaint received from Shri N.K. Premchandran, MP, Lok Sabha regading inferior Quality rice being supplied to Kerala.	The matter has been referred to FCI for investigation.
27.9.96	Complaint from Minister of Food, Tourism & Law, Government of Kerala regarding supply of bad quality rice from FCI to State Government.	Remedial action was taken by Food Corporation of India. Only good quality rice with prior consent of State Govt. is issued for PDS.

(e) The following important steps have been taken by Ministry of Food to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains through PDS:-

(1) The stocks of foodgrains can be inspected by the State Governments or their representatives prior to issue from FCI depots.

(2) Sealed samples from the foodgrains issued for PDS are supplied to State Governments, so that these may be displayed in FPS for the benefit of consumers.

(3) Fair Price Shop owners are required to have a complaint register, so that the consumers may lodge their complaints in these registers. These complaints are looked into by the concerned State Government.

(4) Surprise checks by the officers of Quality Control Cells of the Ministry of Food and, also, by the officers of State Governments are carried out to check the quality of foodgrains.

[English]

Revised Public Distribution System

*47. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the targeted revised Public Distribution System launched by the Government recently along with the guidelines issued to the States in this regard;

(b) the criteria for determining the poor beneficiaries under the scheme;

(c) the likely percentage rise in the existing food subsidy as a result thereof;

(d) the estimated poor population likely to benefited by the scheme, State-wise;

(e) the estimated increase in the supply of different foodgrains and other items for distribution through Public Distribution System, State-wise;

(f) the manner in which the Government propose of maintain the additional supply of foodgrains for the Public Distribution System, State-wise;

(g) the reaction of various State Governments to the revised Public Distribution System; and

(h) the progress made in implementation of the scheme so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (h)